

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing sheet includes amendments to FIGs. 5 and 6. A marked copy of the original drawing sheets containing FIGs. 5 and 6 is enclosed. A replacement set of drawings is also being submitted to the Patent Office for the Examiner's convenience.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

—
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to employ more idiomatic English. No new matter has been entered. A new abstract has been filed as required by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention and to better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. Finally, the drawings have been amended as required by the Examiner.

The art rejections are respectfully traversed. Considering first the several 102 rejections, and in particular the rejection of claims 24-27 as anticipated by Dragoo et al., Dragoo et al. is quite different from Applicant's claimed invention. First, Dragoo et al. does not have an elongated slot that is required by Applicant's claimed invention. Dragoo et al. is a round hole. Secondly, Dragoo et al. does not have a spacer which divides an elongated slot between an inner portion and an outer portion as required by Applicant's claimed invention. Thirdly, Dragoo et al. does not have a spacer that holds the ends of the welding wire apart as required by Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, claim 24 and the several claims which depend thereon can not be said to be anticipated by Dragoo et al.

Turning next to the rejection of claims 24-27 as anticipated by Moore, the patent to Moore also has a single round hole in its top surface. This is fundamentally different from Applicant's claimed invention as above discussed. Thus, claim 24 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be anticipated by Moore.

Turning to the rejection of claims 24-27 and 39-40 as anticipated by Kitt et al., the patent to Kitt et al. also has a single round hole formed in the top surface. Thus, claim 24 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be anticipated by Kitt et al.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
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FAX. 520.882.7643

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Turning to the rejection of claims 24-27 as anticipated by Frederick et al., Frederick et al. also has a single round aperture in the cover and makes no attempt to hold the ends of the welding wire spaced from one another as required by Applicant's claim 24. Thus, claim 24 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be anticipated by Frederick et al.

Turning to the rejection of claims 24-27 as anticipated by Jenson, the patent to Jenson, like the several other 102 references above discussed also has a single round aperture in the top. Again there is no attempt to separate the end of the welding wire as required by Applicant's claim 24. Thus, claim 24 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be anticipated by Jenson.

With regard specifically to the rejection of claims 44-46, claims 44 and 45 have been cancelled in favor of claims 47 and 48. New claims 47 and 48, and claim 46 which has been amended to depend on new claim 47, require, in part, a welding wire container having an elongated opening in the top surface and a spacer over the opening separating one end of the coil from the other end of the coil. As noted supra, none of the applied art teaches or suggests this feature. Thus, new claims 47 and 48, and claim 46 which has been amended to depend on new claim 47 also cannot be said to be anticipated by any of the applied art.

Turning to the several 103 rejections, and considering first the rejection of claim 28 as obvious from any one of Moore, Kitt et al. and Frederick et al. in view of Priest, claim 28 is dependent on claim 24. The deficiencies of Moore, Kitt et al. and Frederick et al. vis-à-vis claim 24 are discussed above. It is submitted that Priest does not supply the missing teachings to any of the primary references to achieve or render obvious claim 24 or claim 28 which depends thereon. Priest, like the several primary references teaches a round aperture. Thus, on this basis alone it is submitted that no combination of Moore, Kitt et al., Frederick et al. and

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

—
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

Priest would achieve or render obvious claim 24 or claim 28 which depends thereon.

Moreover, Priest, like the several primary references also fails to teach or suggest a construction that divides a slot in to an inner and outer portion to separate the ends of the welding wire as required by Applicant's independent claim 24.

Turning to the rejection of claims 41 and 42 as obvious from Kitt et al., claims 41 and 42 are indirectly dependent on claim 24. The deficiencies of Kitt et al. vis-à-vis claim 24 are discussed above. Thus, even assuming arguendo Kitt et al. teaches an elevated portion comprising a truncated pyramid shape as suggested by the Examiner, the more basic and essential features as set forth above relative to the discussion of claim 24 are still not found in Kitt et al. Thus, claims 41 and 42 also cannot be said to be obvious from Kitt et al.

Turning finally to the rejection of claim 43 as obvious from the several references employed against claim 24, claim 43 is dependent on claim 24. The deficiencies of each of the several references applied against claim 24 are discussed above. Even assuming aguendo, that it would be an obvious matter of design choice to provide a slot of a desired size, the more basic and essential features of claim 24 as discussed above, in particular, providing an elongated slot divided by a spacer into an inner and outer portion still is not taught or suggested by any of the applied art. Thus, none of the applied art alone or in combination could be said to teach or suggest claim 24 or claim 43 which depends thereon.

The species election requirement is noted. Since the Examiner has already examined all of the claims, it is not seen that it would be a burden on the Examiner to continue the examination. Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, it is believed that claim 1 in fact is generic to all of the species. Notwithstanding, so as to be fully responsive, Applicant

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

elects Species I, comprising Figures 1-4 and claims 24-26, 28, 30, 34-37, 39-43 and 46-48 which are believed readable thereon.

A supplemental Declaration accompanies this Amendment.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

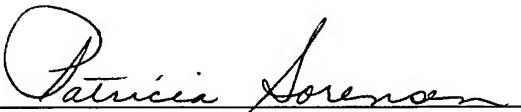


Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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By 

NPS:cmm

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

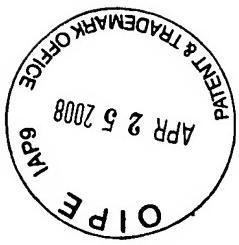
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

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Replacement Abstract

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Amendment A

SERIAL NO. 10/596,697

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Annotated Drawings

Docket No. PRINZ S5026

Serial No. 10/596,697
Annotated Drawings

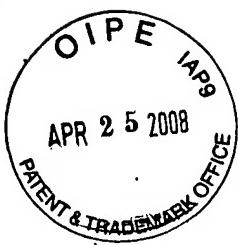


Fig. 5

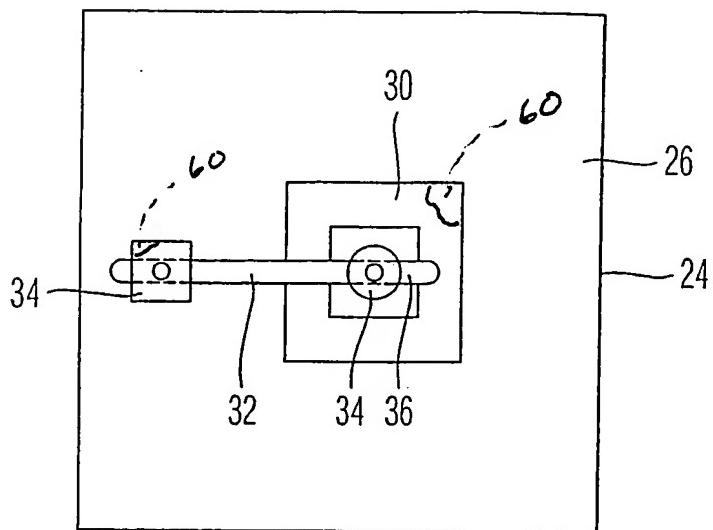
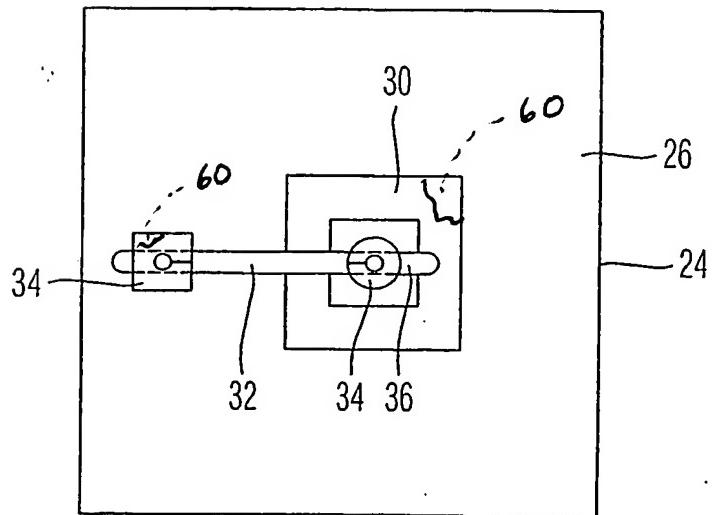


Fig. 6



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Replacement Drawings

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